

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 SIL-01
LAB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-04 CU-02 AID-05 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8301
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USCINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: DEMIREL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM: HUMAN RIGHTS, DOMESTIC
POLITICAL AND LABOR ASPECTS

1. NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM READ BY PRIMIN DEMIREL IN GRAND
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JULY 27 CONTAINED A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY
AND PLEDGED TO RESTORE DOMESTIC POLITICAL TRANQUILITY
WITHOUT SPECIFYING HOW. THE PROGRAM ALSO STATED THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WANTS TO WORK WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

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2. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
LABOR AND DOMESTIC POLITICS INCLUDE:
A. DOMESTIC POLITICAL VIOLENCE: THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT
TURKEY'S DISRUPTED POLITICAL CONDITIONS STEM FROM INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY. IT SAYS THAT
CERTAIN GROUPS ARE ABUSING DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS TO UNDERMINE
TURKEY'S DEMOCRATIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND REPLACE THEM WITH A COMMUNIST

DICTATORSHIP. IN ADDITION, IT SAYS, DOMESTIC PEACE IS DISTURBED BY OTHER LAW VIOLATORS, BUT "INTERNAL SECURITY AND LAW AND ORDER WILL DEFINITELY BE ESTABLISHED. REGARDLESS OF THE THE SOURCE OF VIOLENCE, THE LAWS WLL BE ENFORCED EQUITABLY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION. THE LAW IS THE PRINCIPAL RESOURCE FOR OVERCOMING UNLAWFUL ACTS." THE PROGRAM FURTHER SAYS THAT NEW LAWS (UNSPECIFIED) WILL BE DRAFTED AND ENACTED RAPIDLY TO MEET TURKEY'S INTERNAL SECURITY NEEDS.

B. FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AND DEDICATES ITSELF TO INCREASING NATIONAL INCOME, RAISING INDIVIDUAL PROSPERITY, AND LEVELLING ECONOMIC IMBALANCES. IT ALSO SAYS THAT CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND CREED WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. IN THIS CONTEXT, ARTICLE 163 OF THE TURKISH CRIMINAL CODE (WHICH PROHIBITS TE USE OF RELIGION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES) WILL BE AMENDED TO PREVENT THOSE WHO EXERCISE THEIR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FROM BEING UNJUSTLY JEOPARDIZED. WHILE AFFIRMING ATATURK'S SECULARIZING REFORMS, THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM EMPHASIZES THE SECULARISM IS NOT HOSTILE TO RELIGION BUT ACTS AS A GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

C. EDUCATION: ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAM, THE GOAL OF TURKEY'S NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT IS TO PROPERLY EDUCATE TH NEXT GENERATION AND INCULCATE THEM WITH THE "SPIRITUAL, MORAL, HUMANE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VALUES OF THE TURKISH NATION". FURTHERMORE, TURKISH STUDENTS' PRIDE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURKISH HISTORY AND TRADITION WLL BE STIMULATED, AND THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WILL SEEK TO CREATE AN AWARENESS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY. AT THE SECONDARY EDUCATION LEVEL, MORALITY CLASSES, TAUGHT BY RELIGIOUSLY-TRAINED INSTRUCTORS, WILL BE INSTITUTED.

D. DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS TO BE CONCENTRATED IN POORER REGIONS: REFLECTING THE SAME CONCERNS FOR RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN, SOUTHEASTERN AND CENTRAL ANATOLIA THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND WERE PART OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY ELECTION PLATFORM, THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM LAYS SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THESE AREAS WHICH ARE OCCUPIED BY, AMONG OTHERS, MOST OF TURKEY'S LARGE KURDISH MINORITY.

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E. LABOR: UNLIKE OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PROGRAM, PLANS TO EN-
HANCE CONDITIONS OF TURKISH WORKERS ARE
FAIRLY SPECIFIC. THEY INCLUDE:
(1) EFFORTS TO BRING AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND
DOMESTICS UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY,
(2) LOWERING UNEMPLOYMENT AND CREATING A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM,
(3) PERMITTING RETIREMENT AFTER 20 YEARS FOR WORKERS IN JOBS
WHICH ARE UNHEALTHFUL, SUCH AS COAL MINING,
(4) PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF TURKS WORKING
OVERSEAS AND CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH ENCOURAGES INVEST-
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MENT OF REMITTANCES IN PRODUCTIVE AREAS,
(5) REDUCING ILLEGAL OR UNFAIR DIFFERENCES IN COMPENSATION
FOR RETIRED PERSONS, AND
(6) INCREASING SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED.
THE PROGRAM ALSO CALLS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS AND PROMISES THAT WORKERS WILL RECEIVE
A FAIR SHARE OF THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

2. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR THE LABOR SECTION, THESE PORTIONS OF THE PROGRAM SHOW EVIDENT CONCESSIONS TO THE STRONGLY CONSERVATIVE MINOR PARTNERS OF THE COALITION, THE NATIONAL SALVATION AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTIES. A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ARE APPARENT. ONE, WHICH NO DOUBT WILL CAUSE CONTROVERSY, IS THAT THE PROGRAM CONTAINS NO MENTION OF ARTICLES 141 AND 142 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE (PROHIBITING COMMUNIST ACTIVITY), WHICH USUALLY ARE GROUPED WITH ARTICLE 163 AS RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION. THERE IS ONLY AN OFF-HANDED REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEMS OF VIOLENCE AND UNREST FACED BY TURKEY'S UNIVERSITIES AND THE UNDER-EMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-UTILIZATION OF TURKEY'S UNIVERSITY-EDUCATED CITIZENS. THE MOST STRIKING OMISSION, HOWEVER, IS THE LACK OF A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF HOW THE NEW DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL DOMESTIC POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND RESTORE PEACE TO TURKEY'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHEN THE PREVIOUS DEMIREL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT. SPIERS

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